

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00502 270004Z

22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01

AID-05 /086 W

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R 261515Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3104

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS NICOSIA 0502

DEPT PASS USIA

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CY TU

SUBJECT: CYPRIOT PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S REMARKS ON
CYPRUS

1. PRESIDENT FORD'S FEBRUARY 20 REMARKS ON CYPRUS DURING
NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY WERE TREATED AS SIGNIFICANT NEWS
STORY BY GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CBC
RADIO AND TV PLAYED STORY STRAIGHT WITHOUT COMMENT.
TYPICAL HEADLINES IN FEBRUARY 21 PRESS WERE: PHILELEFTHEROS
(USUALLY REFLECTING MAKARIOS' POSITION) "FORD AGAINST COUP
AND INVASION"; (PRO-CLERIDES) SIMERINI "FORD: WE SHALL NOT
CEASE EXERTING PRESSURE TO FIND SOLUTION"; (PRO-ENOSIS)
MAKHI "FORD MENTIONED PREGRESS ON CYPRUS."

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN FOLLOWING DAYS WAS CON-
SISTENTLY CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS, ATTRIBUTING
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 00502 270004Z

HIS OBSERVATION THAT SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TO

NEED TO APPEASE GREEK-AMERICAN VOTERS. FEBRUARY 22
SIMERINI WROTE: "NOW FORD PUBLICLY CONDEMNS BOTH THE
COUP AND THE INVASION, BUT HIS SECRETARY MR KISSINGER
WATCHED WITH INHUMAN INDIFFERENCE THE UNFOLDING OF
BOTH THE COUP AND THE INVASION...THE TIME FOR DECEIT
AND STATEMENTS OF THEORY HAS PASSED." (COMMUNIST)
HARAVGHI OBSERVED: "AS YOU SEE, THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN
FOR A NEW PRESIDENT IS ALREADY UNDERWAY IN THE UNITED
STATES. FORD...ADAPTS EVERYTHING TO THE GOAL OF AN
ELECTION VICTORY...FORD'S SPEECH, AIMING AT WINNING
VOTES, IS A DISTORTION OF THE FACTS." PHILELEFTHEROS
CHALLENGED: "IF YOU WANT US TO BELIEVE YOU, IF YOU
WANT YOUR WORDS TO BE OF SOME VALUE -- HOWEVER LATE --
WE DEMAND TO SEE YOUR WORDS CONVERTED INTO DEEDS."
FEBRUARY 24 AGHON OBSERVED: "PRESIDENT FORD OPENLY
DECIVES AND CONSCIOUSLY MISLEADS U.S. PUBLIC OPINION
WITH HIS PRE-ELECTION ALLEGATIONS THAT THE CYPRUS ISSUE
IS MAKING PROGRESS. HIS STATEMENT THAT THE US GOVERNMENT
IS USING ITS UTMOST DIPLOMATIC RESOURCES AND IS EXERTING
PRESSURE TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT IS ALSO DOUBTFUL AND
DOES NOT SWUARE WITH REALITY."

3. TURKISH CYPRIOT MEDIA IGNORED STORY.
CRAWFORD

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